

East Hanover Township Regional Ground Water Contamination

Various Locations East Hanover Township Morris County

BLOCK: Various **LOT:** Various

Community Relations Coordinator: Karen Kloo (609) 777-1971

SITE DESCRIPTION/RESOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

Regional ground water contamination was first discovered in East Hanover Township in the early 1980s, when volatile organic compounds were detected in a water sample collected from a municipal supply well. A remediation system was installed at the well field to treat the water from the supply well, but approximately 400 private potable wells at residences and commercial properties in the area remained at risk of contamination. Between 1986 and 1988, NJDEP conducted a study that identified ground water contamination in various parts of the Township and identified several industrial sites as possible sources of the contamination. NJDEP recommended that the Township connect all residences with private potable wells to the municipal water supply system but action was not taken at the time because public funds were not available to pay for the connections. In 1995, NJDEP's Remedial Response Element sampled 127 private potable wells in the Township to evaluate the extent of the ground water contamination. The sampling revealed that six potable wells were contaminated with volatile organic compounds at levels exceeding New Jersey Drinking Water Standards and many others had lower levels of contamination. Between 1998 and 1999, NJDEP and the Township connected approximately 240 properties with private wells to the existing water supply system and extended water lines to one area. NJDEP has reviewed the histories of 26 industries that are possible sources of the contamination and plans to conduct Remedial Investigations (RI) to delineate the contamination at these facilities. In late 2002, representatives for 13 of the 26 industries executed a settlement agreement with NJDEP and signed Administrative Consent Orders to investigate and clean up their sites under the supervision of the Responsible Party Remediation Element. The remaining facilities will be addressed separately under NJDEP's Site Remediation Program.